

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08548 270428Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1170

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8548

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: JAPANESE ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCE POLICY

FOR SECRETARY FROM ENDERS

1. IN 14 HOURS OF TALKS TODAY JAPANESE OFFICIALS (MITI MINISTER KOMOTO, FINANCE VICE MINISTER YOSHIDA, FOREIGN MINISTRY ECONOMIC BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL MIYAZAKI) MADE CLEAR THEIR MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE(MSP). THERE IS NO MINISTERIAL CONSENSUS, THEY SAID, PERMITTING THEM TO BEGIN A PROCESS WHICH LOGICALLY WOULD LEAD TO A REQUEST TO THE DIET FOR IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. THEY VERY MUCH DOUBT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD PASS. THEREFORE THEY WANT TO LEAVE THE MARCH 20 AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AS IS.

2. I REPLIED THAT MSP IS AN INDISPENSIBLE ELEMENT IN ALTERNATIVE SOURCES POLICY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST IMPORTANT. R AND D WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE A PARAMOUNT EFFECT. BUT IF TOKYO REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE AN LATERNATIVE SOURCE POLICY SERIOUSLY, WHOLE IEA PROGRAM WOULD BE AT RISK, FOR IT WOULD BE CLEAR THAT NO BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES COULD BE NEGOTIATED IN THIS OR OTHER FIELDS. ON OTHER HAND; IF THEY ENGAGE, WE CAN BE ACCOMMODATING ON TIMETABLE.

3. JAPANESE OFFICIALS TOOK THIS POINT. THEY WILL NOW CONSULT MINISTERS. THEY PREDICT A NEGATIVE DECISION.

4. I ASKED TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE SO THAT I COULD SEEK YOUR
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INSTRUCTIONS IF TOKYO SAYS IT IS UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATING

PROCESS ON THE KEY ISSUES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED IN ORDER TO REACH FORMAL AGREEMENT ON MSP AT A LATER DATE. IF JAPANESE DELEGATION TO GOVERNING BOARD CAN ONLY ACCEPT SOME COSMETIC SOLUTION WITH NO COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, I WILL RECOMMEND THAT YOU SUSPEND OR SHORTEN THE MEETING.

5. MEETING WAS NONCONTENTIOUS AND BUSINESS LIKE.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ENERGY, LOWER HOUSE, PRICES, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO08548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850002-2068, N750001-0556
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975068/aaaaaguj.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCE POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, JA, IEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006